

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. No new claim has been added and no claim has been canceled, leaving claims 1 and 2 in the case.

Claim 2 stands allowed.

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by Williamson IV (USP 5,716,370).

Claim 1 has been amended to limit the apparatus to being provided with "an elongated linkage strip...connected proximate the first end thereof to said first plication band and proximate the second end thereof to said second plication band, the linkage strip being adapted to extend across the annulus of the heart valve and to draw the first and second plication bands towards each other". Williamson IV does not appear to show or suggest this feature.

Inasmuch as the amendment to claim 1 is comparable to limitations in allowed claim 2, it is believed that the amendment of claim 1 requires no new search and readily renders claim 1 in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

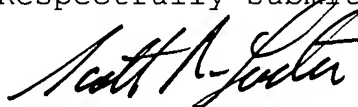
- 7 -

In view thereof, it is respectfully requested that claim 1 be allowed along with previously allowed claim 2.

In the event that any additional fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott R. Foster".

Scott R. Foster

Registration No. 20,170

Pandiscio & Pandiscio

470 Totten Pond Road

Waltham, MA 02451-1914

Tel. (781) 290-0060

EC2/VIA12.AMD3

VIA-12